UNITED NATIONS

General Assembly

FORTY-NINTH SESSION

Official Records

FIFTH COMMITTEE
48th meeting
held on
Monday, 27 March 1995
at 3 p.m.
New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 48th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. TEIRLINCK (Belgium)

Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions: Mr. MSELLE

CONTENTS

AGENDA ITEM 107: PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1994-1995 (continued)

Reformulation of activities under sections 9 and 10 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995 pursuant to General Assembly resolution 48/228 A

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/49/L.64

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Distr. GENERAL
A/C.5/49/SR.48
3 April 1995

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

95-80517 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 3.20 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM 107: PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1994-1995 (continued)

Reformulation of activities under sections 9 and 10 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995 pursuant to General Assembly resolution 48/228 A (A/C.5/49/30)

1. Mr. TAKASU (Controller), introducing the report of the Secretary-General contained in document A/C.5/49/30, said that it contained specific recommendations by the General Assembly regarding the reformulation of activities under section 9 (Department for Economic and Social Information and Policy Analysis) and section 10 (Department for Development Support and Management Services) of the programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995, in order to bring the language of the relevant paragraphs into conformity with that of the medium-term plan and pertinent resolutions.

2. The CHAIRMAN suggested that the Committee should recommend that the General Assembly take note of the report of the Secretary-General entitled "Reformulation of activities under sections 9 and 10 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995 pursuant to General Assembly resolution 48/228 A" (A/C.5/49/30).

3. It was so decided.

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/49/L.64 (A/C.5/49/61)

4. Mr. TAKASU (Controller), introducing the statement submitted by the Secretary-General on the programme budget implications of draft resolution A/49/L.64 concerning the United Nations Mission for the Verification of Human Rights and of Compliance with the Commitments of the Comprehensive Agreement on Human Rights in Guatemala (MINUGUA) (A/C.5/49/61), said that the draft resolution would authorize the renewal of the mandate of the Mission for a further period of six months from 1 April to 30 September 1995. As indicated in the report, the General Assembly had appropriated $10,069,600 for the Mission for the period from 1 October 1994 to 31 March 1995, of which an estimated $8,154,100 had been spent. Additional funds required for the period from 1 April 1995 to 30 September 1995 were estimated at $12,054,300, including expenses for air transportation to enable Mission personnel to reach remote areas. As a result of under-spending during the previous six-month period, however, the actual appropriation required under section 4 (Peace-keeping operations and special missions) of the programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995 was $10,138,800. Should the General Assembly at its fiftieth session decide to extend the Mission's mandate beyond 30 September 1995, the Secretary-General should be authorized to enter into commitments through the end of December 1995 in an amount not exceeding $5,600,000.

5. Mr. MSELLE (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that the Advisory Committee had considered the Secretary-General's statement of programme budget implications (A/C.5/49/61) in which he estimated the requirements for the extension of MINUGUA at $12,054,300

for the period from 1 April to 30 September 1995. The additional requirements for the continuation of the activities of MINUGUA were estimated at $10,138,800, taking into account the $1,915,500 remaining available from the $10,069,600 which the General Assembly, in its resolution 49/220, had appropriated for the period from 1 October 1994 to 31 March 1995 under section 4 of the programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995.

6. As indicated in paragraph 1 of the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the first report of the Director of MINUGUA (A/49/856), the Mission had been established by General Assembly resolution 48/267 for an initial period of six months, with the mandate to verify implementation of the Comprehensive Agreement on Human Rights (A/48/928-S/1994/448, annex I) signed by the Government of Guatemala and the Unidad Revolucionaria Nacional Guatemalteca (URNG) at Mexico City on 29 March 1994. The Advisory Committee noted that, as indicated in paragraph 6 of the annex to document A/49/856, on the basis of the agreement reached between the United Nations and the Government of Guatemala, the Mission had formally initiated its activities on 21 November 1994. Upon request, the Advisory Committee had been informed that the status-of-mission agreement with the Government of Guatemala, requested in resolution 48/267, paragraph 7, had been approved by the Guatemala Congress in December 1994 and passed into law in January 1995. The agreement determined the Mission's legal status and defined the privileges and immunities of its members and property (A/49/856, para. 6).

7. As indicated in paragraph 3 of document A/49/860, since 28 February 1995 the Mission had been fully deployed with its headquarters in Guatemala City, eight regional offices and five sub-offices. The Advisory Committee noted that the staffing requirements of the Mission would continue at the same number and level of posts authorized by the General Assembly at its forty-eighth session, namely, 10 military observers, 60 civilian police, 113 international staff (51 at the Professional level and above, 35 General Service and 27 Field Service personnel), 72 United Nations Volunteers and 135 local staff. As indicated in paragraph 3 of document A/C.5/49/61 and annex I thereto, the estimates for international and local staff costs, including travel and mission subsistence allowance, consultants and related costs amounted to $9,856,000, while estimates for operational costs, such as rental and maintenance of premises and vehicles and purchase of furniture, vehicles and equipment amounted to $2,198,300.

8. The Advisory Committee had been informed that, as of 24 March 1995, the actual personnel deployed in the Mission area included 10 military observers, 30 civilian police, 106 international staff, 72 United Nations Volunteers and 93 local staff.

9. As indicated in annex III to document A/C.5/49/61, total estimated expenditure for the period from 1 October 1994 to 31 March 1995 was $8,154,100. Of that amount, the Advisory Committee had been informed that $4,297,493 represented unliquidated obligations and forecasts of commitments. Based on past experience, from 10 to 15 per cent of those obligations would not actually be required for disbursement. Accordingly, the Advisory Committee recommended a reduction of 12 per cent or $515,700.

10. The Advisory Committee noted that the provisions for international and local staff included an estimate of $99,600 for official travel costs. That estimate represented an increase of $36,900 or 58.9 per cent over the amount previously approved for official travel for the period from 1 October 1994 to 31 March 1995. During that period, the Advisory Committee had been informed that, including unliquidated travel obligations, the amount spent for travel was $52,900. The Advisory Committee was of the view that, based on the travel requirements of MINUGUA as explained to the Committee, an amount of $79,600 should be adequate for that purpose during the period from 1 April to 30 September 1995.

11. With regard to the provisions for freight and other related costs ($261,200), as shown in paragraph B.6 of annex I, the Advisory Committee had been informed that $81,200 of that amount would be required to cover the freight costs for the transfer of 22 vehicles from the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi. Those vehicles were previously funded under the budgetary provisions for the United Nations Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM). The Advisory Committee intended to examine comprehensively the costs and benefits of transferring assets from Brindisi to the various United Nations peace-keeping operations during its review of the Secretary-General's report on that subject to be submitted to the General Assembly, pursuant to resolution 49/233 VII, paragraph 2, by which the Secretary-General had been requested to report, "no later than 31 March 1995, on the feasibility of procedures for valuation and transfer of costs for assets to be redeployed from a peace-keeping operation during its liquidation phase to other peace-keeping operations or other United Nations bodies, and for reimbursement to the special account of the liquidating operation". Other freight requirements of $180,000 had not been adequately explained to the Advisory Committee and in the Advisory Committee's opinion were not required for the current period.

12. In the circumstances, taking into account the foregoing observations, the Advisory Committee recommended that, should the General Assembly adopt draft resolution A/49/L.64, an additional appropriation of $9,423,100 would be required under section 4 (Peace-keeping operations and special missions) of the programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995 for activities during the period from 1 April to 30 September 1995. An additional appropriation of $769,000 would be required under section 28 (Staff assessment), offset by the same amount under income section 1 (Income from staff assessment).

13. Furthermore, with regard to the Secretary-General's request in paragraph 12 of document A/C.5/49/61, the Advisory Committee recommended that, should the General Assembly decide, at its fiftieth session, to extend the mandate of MINUGUA beyond 30 September 1995, the Secretary-General should be authorized to enter into commitments through the end of December 1995 in an amount not to exceed $4,711,550, or approximately one half of the estimated amount to be appropriated for the period from 1 April to 30 September 1995.

14. The CHAIRMAN suggested that the Fifth Committee should decide, without a vote, to inform the General Assembly that, should it adopt draft resolution A/49/L.64, an additional appropriation of $9,423,100 would be required under section 4 of the programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995 for activities in the period 1 April to 30 September 1995, it being understood that the activities

relating to MINUGUA were of an extraordinary nature and should continue to be dealt with outside the procedures related to the contingency fund, as provided for in paragraph 11 of annex I to General Assembly resolution 41/213. An additional appropriation of $769,000 would also be required under section 28 (Staff assessment), offset by the same amount under income section 1 (Income from staff assessment). Furthermore, should the General Assembly decide, at its fiftieth session to extend the mandate of MINUGUA beyond 30 September 1995, the Secretary-General should be authorized to enter into commitments in an amount not to exceed $4,711,550, under section 4 of the programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995, for activities during the period 1 October to 31 December 1995.

15. The draft decision was adopted.

The meeting rose at 3.40 p.m.

UNITED NATIONS

General Assembly

FORTY-NINTH SESSION
Official Records

FIFTH COMMITTEE
49th meeting
held on
Tuesday, 28 March 1995
at 10 a.m.
New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 49th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. TEIRLINCK (Belgium)

Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions: Mr. MSELLE

CONTENTS

AGENDA ITEM 128: FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN HAITI

AGENDA ITEM 162: FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS MISSION OF OBSERVERS IN TAJIKISTAN (continued)

ORGANIZATION OF WORK

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Distr. GENERAL
A/C.5/49/SR.49
4 April 1995

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

94-80523 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 10.15 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM 128: FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN HAITI (A/49/318/Add.2 and Corr.1 and A/49/869)

1. Mr. MSELLE (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions), introducing the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) on the financing of the United Nations Mission in Haiti (UNMIH) (A/49/869), said that the recommendations contained in the report were more generous than was perhaps warranted. In paragraph 2 of the report, the Advisory Committee drew attention to the unsatisfactory conditions under which it was frequently called upon to discharge its responsibilities.

2. The Advisory Committee also wished to draw attention to the potential for the same services to be budgeted under different items of expenditure because of the unclear relationship between the logistics component of civilian and military functions. Accordingly, it had invited the Secretariat to address those concerns either in its forthcoming performance report or in its budget estimates.

3. In paragraph 11, the Advisory Committee reiterated that its prior concurrence must be sought before the Secretary-General entered into commitments not to exceed $50 million, under the terms of section IV, paragraph 3 of General Assembly resolution 49/233.

4. In paragraph 12, the Advisory Committee stated its belief that, at the current stage, the cost estimates for the period from 1 August 1994 to 31 January 1995 did not serve any useful purpose. In paragraph 26, it drew attention to the need for clarification of the elements used in the calculation of reimbursement for contingent-owned equipment, while in paragraph 28, it noted that the cost of the medical services provided by hospital personnel had not been clearly identified.

5. With regard to the mission subsistence allowance rate (para. 32), the Advisory Committee questioned the procedure whereby the same rate had been applied for the whole country. Noting that provision of $1,133,300 had been made for 29 United Nations Volunteers (para. 34), it also questioned the need for a unit simply to provide administrative backstopping for such a small number of Volunteers and recommended that it should not be established. The Committee further requested (para. 35) that the number, level and functions of civilian staff should be reviewed by the Secretary-General, taking into account the services that were available through contractual arrangements and through the use of the military logistics unit.

6. With regard to the acquisition of goods and services, the Advisory Committee was of the opinion (para. 37) that a careful analysis should be undertaken with a view to determining the most cost-effective method of acquiring goods and services that were appropriate for the size and mandate of

the Mission beyond 31 March 1995. On the question of requirements for office space and dormitory modules (para. 38), standard specifications should be developed for the various climate conditions in which the United Nations was likely to operate with a view to eliminating additional costs involved in the "customizing" of modules.

7. In paragraphs 39, 49, 51, 52 and 53, the Advisory Committee adjusted the Secretariat's estimates for repairs to existing infrastructure, installation of communications systems, office furniture and equipment, generators and miscellaneous equipment. In paragraph 44, it called for a review of the requirements for helicopters once the transitional period was over.

8. On the subject of contractual services (para. 54), the Advisory Committee believed that full disclosure should be made of items estimated under contractual services. It further believed that, in general, costs for training of non-governmental organizations should not be borne by assessed contributions for peace-keeping operations (para. 59).

9. Bearing in mind its comments and observations, the Advisory Committee recommended that the costs for UNMIH for the period from 1 February to 31 December 1995 should not exceed $257,556,300. He had been informed that, in the implementation of the Advisory Committee's recommendations, the amount of $151,545,100 gross or $149,579,700 net would be assessed for the period from 1 February to 31 July 1995. Subject to the extension of the mandate of UNMIH by the Security Council, the amount to be assessed for the period from 1 August to 31 December 1995 would be $105,011,200 gross or $104,200,200 net.

10. Mr. TAKASU (Controller), introducing the report of the Secretary-General on the financing of the United Nations Mission in Haiti (A/49/318/Add.2), said that UNMIH was a unique Mission in that the Security Council had expanded its original limited mandate to take account of the unfolding political developments in Haiti. While the Secretariat had, by and large, successfully met the administrative and logistical challenges resulting from the various changes in, and extensions of, the Mission's mandate, it had been forced to operate basically on commitment authority and from existing resources.

11. As indicated in paragraph 34 of the report, the action to be taken by the General Assembly at its current session in connection with the financing of UNMIH included the appropriation of the amount of $5,946,700 gross for the period from 1 July 1994 to 31 January 1995; the assessment of an additional amount of $3,644,800 gross for the maintenance of UNMIH for the period from 1 July 1994 to 31 January 1995; the appropriation and assessment of the amount of $163,824,500 gross for the period from 1 February to 31 July 1995; and, with regard to the period after 31 July 1995, provision by commitment authorization at a monthly rate of $21,828,380 gross and the assessment of such amounts, should the Security Council decide to continue UNMIH beyond that date.

12. With regard to the three trust funds that had been established for Haiti, no pledges had to date been received for the Trust Fund to finance the cost of construction materials and other expenditures not normally financed from

assessed contributions; $2.7 million had been pledged for the Trust Fund for Electoral Assistance to Haiti; and $3 million had been pledged to the Trust Fund to provide goods and services to the international police monitoring programme and other specifically designated purposes in Haiti.

13. He welcomed the General Assembly's decision to increase the Secretary-General's commitment authority from $10 million to $50 million for the start-up requirements of new missions. Even though the Secretary-General was required to submit preliminary estimates for review and approval by the Advisory Committee, given the time lag that resulted from the need to prepare such estimates, an informal understanding had been reached as to what constituted prior concurrence of the Advisory Committee. The practice leaned towards the ex post facto submission of estimates, particularly in cases where a considerable lead time was required for the procurement of equipment and the dispatch of advance personnel. Moreover, rule 110.6 of the Financial Regulations and Rules provided for such action in order to avoid the interruption of an operation.

14. Mr. MSELLE (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) recalled that he had indicated to the Controller earlier in the year that if there was a specific problem of the kind to which he had just alluded, a formal proposal should be submitted for the consideration of the Advisory Committee. He had to date received no proposal from the Controller.

15. The position of the Advisory Committee on the matter of its concurrence as set out in paragraphs 9 and 11 of its report (A/49/869), was not inconsistent with the application of rule 110.6 of the Financial Regulations and Rules. Moreover, section IV, paragraph 3, of General Assembly resolution 49/233 provided that the prior concurrence of the Advisory Committee must be obtained before the Secretary-General entered into commitments not to exceed $50 million.

16. Mr. HANSON (Canada) said that the forthcoming transition from the multinational force to UNMIH underlined the continuity of the international community's commitment to the establishment of full democracy and peace in Haiti. Since the return of President Aristide in October 1994, the Haitians had begun to enjoy the rights and freedoms of which they had been deprived for many years. The multinational force led by the United States had created the environment necessary for the Haitians to build a peaceful, stable and democratic society. The United Nations and the multinational force had worked together to ensure a smooth transition. Canada had actively participated in that process and would also be a major contributor to UNMIH. While the security environment in Haiti had improved, the situation remained fragile and the challenges faced by UNMIH and the Haitians alike in consolidating security and stability and creating an atmosphere conducive to the organization of free and fair elections must not be underestimated. The operation must be put on a sound financial and administrative footing if it was to be successful.

17. Mr. BOIN (France), speaking on behalf of the European Union, welcomed the fact that UNMIH could now be deployed as a result of the generous and positive action of the multinational force, and expressed the hope that its efforts would lead to the holding of democratic elections in Haiti.

18. The European Union agreed with the Advisory Committee's comments concerning the Secretary-General's budget estimates. In that connection, he once again stressed the importance that the European Union attached to the work of the Advisory Committee and to the need for the timely issuance in the official languages of the reports which were essential in order for the General Assembly to exercise its budgetary authority. The documents submitted by the Secretariat did not provide sufficiently convincing justification for the huge volume of funds requested. A considerable number of the requests appeared not to be based on precise data resulting from studies in the field but rather to reflect approximate estimates. The presence of a large multinational force in Haiti for approximately six months should have facilitated the preparation by the United Nations of a detailed budget for UNMIH with proper justification.

19. The efforts which had been made, in particular by the General Assembly in its resolution 49/233, to streamline and simplify the budget review process for peace-keeping operations had not yet resulted in any appreciable improvement in the budgets submitted by the Secretariat. It was to be hoped that tangible progress would be made in the coming months. In order to facilitate the consideration by the Committee of the proposed budget for UNMIH, the European Union had circulated to the Secretariat and members of the Committee a list of the main technical questions raised by the budget estimates.

20. Over and above that list, however, the budget estimates for UNMIH raised a number of questions. First, the inadequate justification provided under the main budget headings raised the issue of possible overlaps between civilian, military and contractual staff and in the use of certain items of equipment such as vehicles, as was noted by the Advisory Committee in paragraphs 13, 14, 30 and 41 of its report. It was clear that, without the streamlining and proper coordination of the resources made available to the Mission, there would be overlapping which could result not only in additional costs for Member States but also possibly in the impaired functioning of the Mission which might be detrimental to the discharge of its mandate.

21. Second, it was important to address the relationship between UNMIH and the International Civilian Mission in Haiti (MICIVIH) and, in particular, the relationship with the major programme of assistance for the economic recovery of Haiti recently announced at the conference of donor countries in Paris, which involved nearly $900 million over a period of 12 to 18 months. He wondered, however, whether in that context it was appropriate to charge to the UNMIH budget certain expenditures such as the repair of infrastructure which would appear to come under development assistance and should thus be financed from voluntary contributions. Moreover, close coordination between UNMIH and activities undertaken on behalf of Haiti through certain agencies in the United Nations system was essential in order to avoid duplication and waste.

22. Lastly, with regard to the determination of the budget item for contingent-owned equipment, the European Union had noted the assurances provided by the Secretariat to the Advisory Committee that the rate of 10 per cent which had been taken as a basis did not in any way prejudge the decisions that the General Assembly would take on that question in due course following consultations with

Member States. The European Union agreed with the Advisory Committee's comment in paragraph 26 of its report that there was a need to clarify the elements used in the calculation of reimbursement for contingent-owned equipment.

23. The European Union would determine its position on the amounts to be assessed and on the amount of the commitment authority on the basis of the replies provided by the Secretariat to the questions it had raised.

24. Mr. KUZNETSOV (Russian Federation) said he agreed with the Advisory Committee that the volume of resources requested by the Secretary-General for UNMIH was excessive in view of the mandate assigned by the Security Council to the Mission and the size of the country. In that regard, the Fifth Committee needed to review the existing situation carefully. There was an obvious overlapping of functions carried out by civilian and military personnel regarding technical and engineering work which must also be addressed. His delegation was ready to participate fully in both informal consultations and formal meetings to address the more technical questions raised in the reports of the Advisory Committee and the Secretary-General.

25. Mr. TOYA (Japan) said that the Secretariat, the Advisory Committee and Member States should work together to facilitate the preparation and approval of peace-keeping budgets. His delegation was prepared to endorse the Advisory Committee's recommendations and hoped that the Committee could reach a decision as soon as possible. In that regard, he welcomed the list of questions submitted by the European Union and hoped that it would facilitate the Committee's deliberations.

26. Ms. BUERGO (Cuba) said that the report of the Secretary-General did not facilitate the understanding by delegations of such a complicated Mission. She regretted that it had not been clearer, simpler and more direct. Estimates for activities ranging from water purification and storage to the number of civilian and military personnel required for the Mission and infrastructure repairs were excessive; in that regard she fully shared the concerns expressed and the recommendations put forward by the Advisory Committee in paragraphs 24, 34, 39 and 42 of its report. In her delegation's view, none of the calculations concerning the Mission had been made on the basis of the most economical methods with a view to achieving savings. There was no need, for instance, for radio and television programmes on the participation of the United Nations in Haiti. Moreover, she fully supported the Advisory Committee's comments and recommendations with regard to contractual services and training programmes.

AGENDA ITEM 162: FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS MISSION OF OBSERVERS IN TAJIKISTAN (continued) (A/49/854 and A/49/868)

27. Mr. TAKASU (Controller), replying to a question which had been put to the Secretariat at a previous meeting, said that the Government of Tajikistan had provided free furnished office space for the Mission and that it exempted the Mission from the payments of taxes on fuel, equipment and other goods it required for its operations.

ORGANIZATION OF WORK

28. Ms. HOLLAND (United Kingdom) said that her delegation would welcome clarification from the Secretariat concerning the financial arrangements for the United Nations Angola Verification Mission (UNAVEM III), for which commitment authority had been given up to 31 May 1995. Since the Fifth Committee would not be meeting until mid-June, it would be very unlikely that it would be able to review and approve a budget for UNAVEM III before the commitment authority ran out. Her delegation would therefore appreciate information concerning the time-scale within which the Secretariat proposed to submit a budget and information as to whether the commitment authority granted by the Advisory Committee would be sufficient to meet the needs of the Mission until such time as a budget could be approved.

The meeting rose at 11.15 a.m.

UNITED NATIONS

General Assembly

FORTY-NINTH SESSION

Official Records

FIFTH COMMITTEE
50th meeting
held on
Wednesday, 29 March 1995
at 3 p.m.
New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 50th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. TEIRLINCK (Belgium)

Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions: Mr. MSELLE

CONTENTS

AGENDA ITEM 118: FINANCING OF THE ACTIVITIES ARISING FROM SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 687 (1991): UNITED NATIONS IRAQ-KUWAIT OBSERVATION MISSION (continued)

AGENDA ITEM 162: FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS MISSION OF OBSERVERS IN TAJIKISTAN (continued)

AGENDA ITEM 128: FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN HAITI (continued)

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Distr. GENERAL
A/C.5/49/SR.50
7 April 1995

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

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95-80549 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 3.40 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM 118: FINANCING OF THE ACTIVITIES ARISING FROM SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 687 (1991): UNITED NATIONS IRAQ-KUWAIT OBSERVATION MISSION (continued) (A/49/863)

1. Mr. TAKASU (Controller), introducing the report of the Secretary-General (A/49/863), said that, since the establishment of the United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission (UNIKOM), the Security Council had decided to review the question of its termination or continuation as well as its modalities of operation every six months. In October 1994, the Security Council had accepted the Secretary-General's recommendation that UNIKOM should be maintained and had decided to review the question once again by 8 April 1995.

2. As far as the financial arrangements for UNIKOM were concerned, the General Assembly had granted financial authority from 1 November 1994 to 31 March 1995. It was now urgent that the General Assembly should review the financial arrangement from 1 April 1995 onwards. The Secretary-General proposed that, should the Security Council decide to continue UNIKOM beyond 8 April 1995, the General Assembly should grant approval of the amount of $15.6 million net for the maintenance of the Mission for the period from 1 April to 30 June 1995. Two thirds of that amount would be funded from voluntary contributions from the Government of Kuwait, while one third would be assessed on Member States.

3. As far as the reimbursement of troop costs of the Mission was concerned, full reimbursement had been made up to the period ending January 1995.

4. Mr. MSELLE (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions), introducing the Advisory Committee's oral report on the report of the Secretary-General (A/49/863), said that, by its resolution 689 (1991), the Security Council had decided to review the question of the termination or continuation of UNIKOM every six months, and that it had decided to review the question by 8 April 1995. Accordingly, the Secretary-General was requesting that the General Assembly, at its forty-ninth session, should make appropriate provision for the expenses of UNIKOM for the period beyond 31 March 1995, should the Security Council decide to continue the Mission.

5. In resolution 48/242, the General Assembly had, as an exceptional measure, authorized the Secretary-General to enter into commitments up to the amount of $5.5 million gross ($5,312,800 net) per month, inclusive of the two-thirds share to be met from voluntary contributions from the Government of Kuwait, for the maintenance of UNIKOM for the period 1 May to 31 October 1994, one third of the full amount to be assessed among Member States. By the same resolution, the General Assembly had also decided that, on an experimental basis, the Secretary-General could enter into commitments up to the amount of $5.5 million gross ($5,312,800 net) per month, inclusive of the two-thirds share to be met through voluntary contributions from the Government of Kuwait for the period from 1 November 1994 to 31 March 1995, one third of the full amount to be assessed among Member States.

6. As had been indicated in the Secretary-General's report, the cost for the eight-month period from 1 November 1994 to 30 June 1995 was estimated at $43,718,300 gross ($41,997,500 net), while the cost for the 12-month period from 1 July 1995 to 30 June 1996 was estimated at $63,912,000 gross ($61,298,000 net).

7. In reviewing the Secretary-General's report, the Advisory Committee had recalled that the headquarters of UNIKOM was in Umm Qasr, with liaison offices in Baghdad and Kuwait City and a logistics base at Doha. The Advisory Committee had been informed that the logistics base was in the process of being moved from Doha to facilities in Kuwait City. The Advisory Committee had also been informed that a project to consolidate facilities in the new UNIKOM Support Centre in Kheitan and the Umm Qasr headquarters had been under way since January 1995 and was expected to be completed in July 1995. The Secretary-General's report, however, did not contain comprehensive information on the relocation of the Doha logistics base and the new Support Centre or on the impact of those projects on the various items of expenditure, and the Advisory Committee had therefore requested that such information should be provided to it, including information on the administrative and financial implications of the relocation and facilities at the new Support Centre, so that it could assess the requirements in their totality.

8. On receipt of the necessary information, the Advisory Committee intended to submit its detailed report to the Fifth Committee at its resumed session. Pending that report, and should the Security Council decide to continue UNIKOM beyond 31 March 1995, the Advisory Committee recommended that the General Assembly should provisionally approve an amount of $12 million net for the maintenance of the Mission for the period from 1 April to 30 June 1995, including the two-thirds amount to be funded from voluntary contributions from the Government of Kuwait.

9. On that basis, the Secretary-General would be authorized to enter into commitments in an amount of $4 million net, representing one third of the cost of the maintenance of the Mission for the period from 1 April to 30 June 1995, in addition to the $8 million net to be made available by the Government of Kuwait. In the Advisory Committee's opinion an assessment would not be necessary at the current time in view of the unencumbered balance of $3,369,400 remaining after credit of $7.8 million to Member States.

10. Mr. BOIN (France) said that his delegation regretted the late submission of a report on such an important peace-keeping force and deplored the fact that the Committee was obliged to consider an oral report of the Advisory Committee delivered in English when the Secretariat was duty-bound to issue reports in all six official languages. He wondered whether the Secretariat could explain the reasons for that situation.

11. With regard to the Advisory Committee's report, he sought clarification concerning the relocation of the logistics base from Doha to Kuwait City and on its administrative, operational, financial and budgetary consequences. In that connection, his delegation hoped that a draft resolution could be drawn up by the Committee containing a specific paragraph on the relocation issue and that,

when a report was submitted at the resumed session, it would contain clarifications on all the issues it had raised.

12. Mr. MSELLE (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that extensive questions had been asked with respect to the relocation of the Doha logistics base and renovation of the Support Centre when the Secretary-General's report had been discussed. A number of items of expenditure proposed in the report, including some of those concerning premises, equipment under contractual services, and supplies, were related to the relocation of the Doha logistics base and the renovation of the UNIKOM Support Centre. The Advisory Committee had requested detailed information from the Secretariat, which had indicated that it needed to get more information from its field offices. For that reason, the Advisory Committee had decided that it would not be advisable for it to make definitive recommendations in that connection before the additional information it had requested was received from the field. The results of the Advisory Committee's analysis of such information would be reflected in a detailed report which it would be submitting to the Committee.

13. Mr. MENKVELD (Netherlands), referring to the comments made by the representative of France, said that, in his delegation's view, the Secretariat had done an excellent job in complying with the request of the General Assembly set out in paragraph 23 of resolution 48/242. The provisional arrangements recommended by the Advisory Committee should be endorsed by the Committee.

14. Ms. ROTHEISER (Austria) agreed that the Committee should proceed in accordance with the Advisory Committee's recommendations.

15. Ms. ALMAO (New Zealand) said that, while she appreciated the constraints on the Advisory Committee, she regretted that it had been unable to produce a written report and to submit a recommendation with regard to commitment authority for the period from 1 July 1995 to 30 June 1996, as had been requested by the Secretary-General. In that regard, she wondered whether the Fifth Committee would have a report from the Advisory Committee before it when it met in June.

16. Mr. VALENZA (Italy) said that, while his delegation understood the reasons for the late submission of the documents on UNIKOM, it hoped that in future the Secretariat would be able to improve its performance in that regard.

17. Mr. BOIN (France) said he was fully aware that the Secretariat had met the deadline established by General Assembly resolution 48/242. His delegation's regrets related to the fact that the Secretary-General's report had been submitted on the very day it was to be considered. Logically, in view of the way the Fifth Committee was functioning and given the evolution of the Organization's activities, particularly in the area of peace-keeping operations, the Fifth Committee should be a standing committee which would give priority to the speedy and effective consideration of the budgets of peace-keeping operations since there were men in the field who were risking their lives.

18. Mr. TAKASU (Controller), responding to the question concerning the late submission of documentation, said that the Secretariat had been unable to submit

the report before the deadline of 31 March 1995 because it had had to verify and readjust data submitted by its field offices in February 1995. What the Secretariat was seeking was a bridging authority which would allow it to maintain the Mission until the Fifth Committee was in a position to review the budget on the basis of the Advisory Committee's definitive report. With regard to the additional information requested concerning the Support Centre, he said that the project to consolidate facilities in the new UNIKOM Support Centre was being implemented with the generous contribution from the Government of Kuwait. The United Nations contributed office space and equipment and the expenditures under those headings were already included in the budget estimates. Moreover, the relocation would allow savings in the budget.

19. The CHAIRMAN suggested that the Fifth Committee should take a decision whereby the General Assembly, pending consideration of the report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, would approve provisionally an amount of $12 million net for the maintenance of the Mission for the period from 1 April to 30 June 1995, including the two-thirds amount to be funded from voluntary contributions from the Government of Kuwait should the Security Council decide to continue the Mission; and authorize the Secretary-General to enter into commitments in an amount of $4 million net, representing one third of the cost of the maintenance of the Mission for the period from 1 April to 30 June 1995, in addition to the $8 million net to be made available by the Government of Kuwait.

20. Mr. BOIN (France) said he had understood that two thirds of the financing for UNIKOM came from voluntary contributions and he wondered whether the legal capacity of the Secretary-General to enter into commitments related to the entire sum of $12 million.

21. Mr. KELLY (Ireland) asked why the Advisory Committee had recommended the approval of $12 million for the three-month period from 1 April to 30 June 1995, while the Secretary-General had requested approval of $16.3 million.

22. Mr. TAKASU (Controller) said that the assessed contributions of Member States and the voluntary contribution of the Government of Kuwait were paid into a Special Account and the Secretary-General was authorized to enter into commitments of up to $12 million for UNIKOM for the period from 1 April to 30 June 1995.

23. Mr. MSELLE (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that the Advisory Committee had recommended a lower figure for financing the Mission from 1 April to 30 June 1995 (and beyond) out of a reluctance to prejudge the volume of resources it would eventually recommend. That reluctance was based on the fact that the Advisory Committee had yet to receive the detailed information it had requested regarding the logistics base and the Support Centre, and on its experience in connection with previous expenditures. He referred to the Mission's gross expenditure of $58,830,600 (or approximately $4.8 million per month) for the period from 1 November 1993 to 31 October 1994, and the gross cost estimates of $43,718,300 (or approximately $5.5 million per month) and of $63,912,000 (or approximately $5.3 million per month) proposed by the Secretary-General for the eight-month

period from 1 November 1994 to 30 June 1995 and the one-year period from 1 July 1995 to 30 June 1996 respectively. The Advisory Committee wished to know what cost elements in the budget for the period from 1 November 1994 to 30 June 1995 had led to the increase from $4.8 million to $5.5 million in monthly costs. The lower figure was roughly in line with the expenditures made during the period from 1 November 1993 to 31 October 1994. The gross figure of $5.5 million authorized in paragraphs 17 and 18 of General Assembly resolution 48/242 represented a commitment limit. It was only after commitments had been authorized by the General Assembly that the Secretary-General prepared detailed cost estimates setting out the actual amounts required for the specified periods. In most cases, it was discovered that the General Assembly had been generous in its authorizations. For that reason, the Advisory Committee had recommended the figure of $12 million for April, May and June 1995, of which $8 million would be obtained from voluntary contributions.

24. The draft decision suggested by the Chairman was adopted.

AGENDA ITEM 162: FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS MISSION OF OBSERVERS IN TAJIKISTAN (continued) (A/C.5/49/L.42)

25. Mr. KELLY (Ireland), introducing draft resolution A/C.5/49/L.42, said that the United Nations Mission of Observers in Tajikistan (UNMOT) was a new Mission, established by the Security Council in December 1994. The General Assembly had therefore made no previous provision for financing it. He drew the Committee's attention to the main provisions of the draft resolution, whereby the General Assembly would endorse the observations and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee (A/49/868); decide to appropriate an amount of $3,251,200 to the Special Account for UNMOT for the period from 16 December 1994 to 26 April 1995; decide also to apportion that amount among Member States; and decide to appropriate an amount of $10,044,200 gross for the continued operation of the Mission for the period from 27 April 1995 to 30 June 1996, that amount to be assessed at a rate of $717,400 gross per month in accordance with the standard peace-keeping scale, subject to the decision of the Security Council to extend the mandate of the Mission beyond the period authorized by the Security Council in its resolution 968 (1994). The general provisions of General Assembly resolution 49/233 covered the financing of the Mission up to 30 June 1996.

26. Draft resolution A/C.5/49/L.42 was adopted.

27. Ms. ALMAO (New Zealand), explaining her delegation's position on the draft resolution which had just been adopted, said that it had been pleased to support start-up financing for UNMOT. It was the first time that the Fifth Committee had taken action under the revolving commitment authority established in section IV of General Assembly resolution 49/233; the experience had revealed some practical timing and technical difficulties in the smooth implementation of that important new resolution. The Advisory Committee had made a strict and correct interpretation of when its delegated authority under that resolution should apply. That meant that commitments incurred by the Secretary-General before the Advisory Committee had granted commitment authority had to be covered under General Assembly resolution 48/229 on unforeseen and extraordinary expenses relating to the maintenance of peace and security. Her delegation

believed that it was the first time that that resolution had been invoked to cover the start-up costs of a peace-keeping operation; in the past it had been used for the good offices and mediation efforts of the Secretary-General. Her delegation believed that Member States needed to consider whether such a use of the resolution was appropriate and, if so, whether its level of financial authority was sufficient or whether the provisions of General Assembly resolution 49/233 should be adjusted so as to take effect immediately upon the establishment or expansion of a peace-keeping operation. Her delegation believed that the provisions of General Assembly resolutions 48/229 and 49/233 should be harmonized and suggested that the issue should be considered when the Fifth Committee next took up agenda item 132.

The meeting was suspended at 4.45 p.m. and resumed at 5.45 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM 128: FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN HAITI (continued) (A/C.5/49/L.43)

28. Mr. HAMMARSKJÖLD (Sweden), introducing draft resolution A/C.5/49/L.43, drew the Committee's attention to the main operative provisions of the draft resolution concerning the financing of the United Nations Mission in Haiti (UNMIH), whereby the General Assembly would decide to appropriate to the Special Account a total amount of $5,902,500 gross for the operation of the Mission for the period from 1 August 1994 to 31 January 1995; decide further to appropriate to the Special Account, and to assess, a total amount of $151,545,100 gross for the operation of the Mission for the period from 1 February to 31 July 1995; decide, with regard to the period beyond 31 July 1995, to authorize the Secretary-General, on a provisional basis, to enter into commitments at a monthly rate not to exceed $21,202,240 gross for the three-month period from 1 August to 31 October 1995 in connection with the maintenance of the Mission, the amount of $21,202,240 gross ($20,840,040 net) to be assessed subject to the decision of the Security Council to extend the mandate of the Mission beyond 31 July 1995; and request the Secretary-General, in order to take a decision on the definite amount of expenditure for the period beyond 31 July 1995, to submit budget proposals by the end of August 1995.

29. Draft resolution A/C.5/49/L.43 was adopted.

The meeting rose at 5.55 p.m.